Retrenchment of contract Labourers in BALCO

2668. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new BALCO management have retrenched 2000 contract labourers after disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reemploy the said contract labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) It has been reported that there has been no change in the number of contract labourers employed in BALCO during the year ending June 2001, after disinvestment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Upliftment of Agricultural Workers

2669. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindu dated 27th June under the caption New ILO safety standards for farm workers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to uplift the lot of agricultural workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Dangerous Machines (Regulation) Act, 1983 and the Insecticides Act, 1968 are already in place to ensure safety and health to the farm workers. Further, the Government is implementing a number of Plan Schemes like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) etc. to provide employment opportunities and improve the conditions of rural workers including agricultural workers. The Government has launched on 1st July, 2001, Krishi Shramik Suraksha Yojana-2001 specifically for agricultural workers. The main provisions of social security under the Scheme are: Life-cum-accident insurance, Money back, Pension and superannuation benefits.

Payment of Wages

†2670. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that contractors working for Government Departments pay less wages than the fixed minimum wages to their labourers;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government intend to take action against such contractors who are flouting the labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages to the workers in the scheduled employments both in Central and State Spheres. In the Central Spheres, the implementation is secured through officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery, while at the State level, through the State enforcement machineries. These officers are appointed as Inspectors and they conduct inspections in the Central and State Sphere establishments to enforce the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. Action as provided under the Act is taken against the defaulters which *inter-alia* includes filing of claims application, recovery of difference of wages and payment of compensation etc. Prosecution cases are also filed in respect of the violations in the Courts. The details of the inspections carried out and action taken thereon in the Central Sphere during the last year are given below:—

1.	No. of Inspection made in respect of Contractors Estt.	9449
2.	No. of cases of less payment detected	2760
3.	No. of claim cases filed	1763
4.	No. of claim cases disposed off	1710
5.	Amount of difference of payment of wages and compensation awarded	Rs.1.69 crore
6.	Amount of compensation recovered	Rs. 19.05 lakh
7.	Amount paid to the workers	Rs. 3.62 lakh
8.	No. of workers benefitted	6,966
9.	No. of prosecution cases filed	3,432

Safety Norms for Agriculture Workers

2671. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Labour Organisation at its 89th Session held recently has adopted a new set of safety norms, protecting the agricultural workers;

(b) if so, the main features of the safety norms adopted;

(c) whether India has ratified this convention;